



Kenmare Rowing & Boating Club,
The Pier,
Kenmare,
Co Kerry.

2nd November 2023

Mr Damien Ginty
Senior Planner,
Kerry County Council,
Rathass,
Tralee,
Co. Kerry

Dear Mr Ginty,

We write to you in relation to the Draft Kenmare Municipal LAP.

Kenmare Rowing and Boating Club has been part of Kenmare for many years. KRBC has over 50 members of all ages and abilities, ranging from recreational rowers to successful international rowers and national champions. Over the years many different types of boats have been rowed by the club members from gigs, flat water sculling boats and more recently coastal/offshore rowing boats have been added to the fleet of boats owned by the club. The waters above the suspension bridge provide the calmest water for sculling training, while the more open waters of Kenmare Bay provide a great place to row the coastal and offshore boats. The Club has hosted many regattas where rowers from all over Ireland have travelled to Kenmare.

Kenmare Bay is a great resource for the town and we feel the waterside areas and access to the water should be enhanced and developed in a way which in would greatly benefit Kenmare community.

Rowing is a sport for life. Kenmare Rowing and Boating Club's ambition is to provide a safe and secure environment where current and future members can enjoy the sport. We hope you consider our suggestions and we would be happy to discuss our requirements further to be a part of Kenmare's future development plans. The club welcomes many of the proposals already submitted which could allow a much better connection between the town, the community and the sea.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our suggestions.

Kenmare Rowing and Boating Club

The Peninsula

Currently the club stores the bigger and heavier offshore boats and sailing boats at its site on the Peninsula where there are 2 containers and a small boat yard. We feel that this area and surrounds could be developed in a way that would allow a permanent home for the club by way of a clubhouse, boat storage and maintenance area, and possibly also encompass a watersports and amenity area, in conjunction with the proposed plans for the Peninsula Park. This would also be of benefit to the Kenmare Bay Sailing Club and other clubs and individuals who use the area for both land and/or water based activities. Boats could be launched and retrieved there with ease and safety, and with possible consideration for some type of low floating breakwater, the area could become more sheltered. The existing slip near the pier is quite exposed when prevailing winds strengthen any bit.



Boathouse and access to Reenagross area

We are lucky to have the support of the Sheen Falls, who have allowed the Club to use their boathouse situated close to the bridge on the Tuosist Road. From here boats can be launched all year round as there is good shelter there. However this is a temporary arrangement and though we are extremely grateful to the Sheen Falls, the club is confined by the size of the site and boathouse, and the access and parking on the main road is not ideal. The waters above the bridge provide an all year round training area.

We would ask if Kerry County Council would consider allowing some of the land where the gravel yard is to be used by KRBC to erect a boathouse where the small lighter sculling boats could be stored safely and securely, and also to allow for some parking there. This area is exceptionally well sheltered and could provide great access to sheltered waters. We hope that we could work with Kerry CoCo and the Lansdowne Estate to exploring this possibility further.

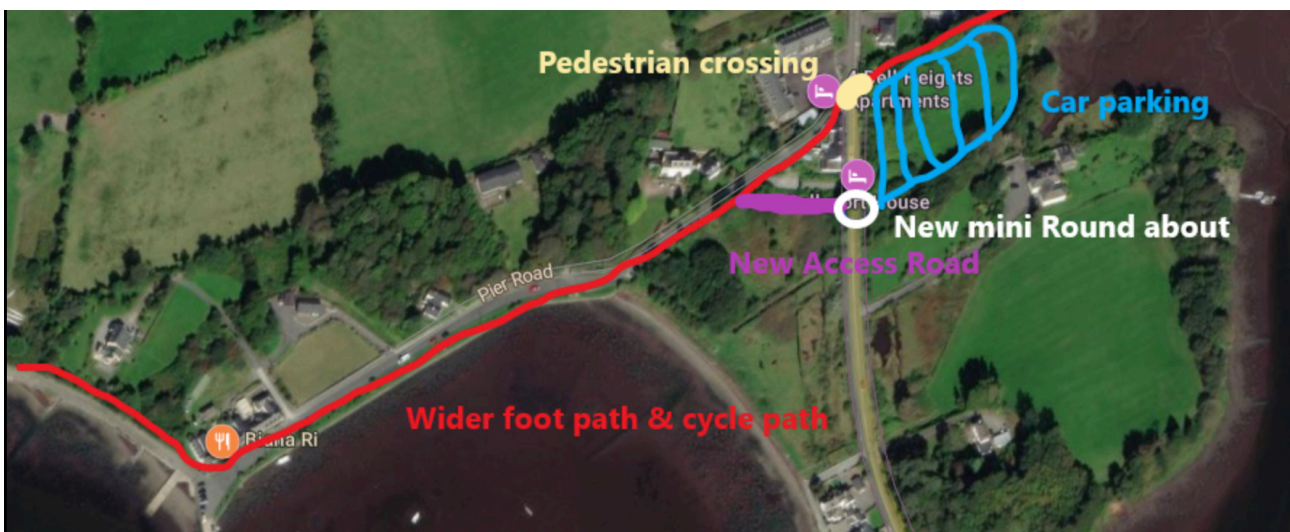
The Pier

KRBC uses the Pier frequently as this is where the 2 club safety boats are moored. It can be a busy place and attracts locals and tourists. The number of privately owned leisure craft using the water and pier increases each year.

Kenmare Pier though solid and picturesque has little or no facilities, and lacks management in relation to the moorings and tying up of boats which leads to issues as boats have to raft together and this can cause problems when trying to safely get on and off boats.

A fresh water tap, power sockets, refuse bins and public toilets are not unheard of on most public piers around the country. Also access for local and visiting boats is limited and the steps could be improved by even just some non slip surface attached. The lighting on the pier from a boat users point of view is quite blinding for docking at night in small boats.

We feel access to the pier and especially the pedestrian entrance to Reenagross is extremely dangerous. As outlined in the map, we feel that pedestrian crossing is needed, to slow down traffic approaching the area and gain safe access to the new car park and pier. A short new link road to a mini round-about together with the entrance of the carpark would provide a solution. This will make it much safer for the many events that happen in Kenmare during the year, such as the Kenmare Regatta, Ring of Beara Cycle, Quest Kenmare, Vikingdom raft race and Lost Sheep Triathlon.



Kenmare Pier and its surrounding waters are a valuable but under utilised asset. With the right developments done in a sensitive and sustainable way, the potential to link water and land based activity is great, encouraging locals and tourists to use this recreational resource which should lead to more enterprise and employment in the area.